



# The British Columbia Gazette.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

VICTORIA, MAY 14TH, 1898.

T. R. McINNES.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Colonies and Dependencies thereof, QUEEN, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

COMMISSION.

*To the Honourable GEORGE ANTHONY WALKEM, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Supreme Court of British Columbia:*

WHEREAS by an Order in Council, approved on the 13th day of May, 1898, it was directed that a Commissioner be appointed for the purpose of holding an inquiry to ascertain the truth as to the allegations contained in a certain editorial appearing in the issue of the Victoria Daily Times published on the 11th of May instant, which is in the words following:—

“CAN THESE THINGS BE?

“It would be very interesting to learn how much truth there is in the grave accusations that are being made regarding the rottenness of the Lands and Works Department, especially regarding a certain important branch of the same. It is alleged that if those having business in that Department wish to have that business expedited, they must ‘see’ an official about it and pay a fee for which there is no provision in Statutes or regulations. Several instances, said to be well authenticated, are related where sums varying from ten to fifty dollars have been paid over to get the particular business of the payers hurried forward. It would also be interesting to find how much ground there is for the statement that if one wishes the slightest information at that Department, the officials must be ‘seen beforehand’”

So far as the matters therein alleged affect the good government of the Province, or the conduct of public

affairs therein in the Lands and Works Department:

And whereas by the said Order in Council it was directed that the Honourable Mr. Justice Walkem be appointed a Commissioner to inquire into the above matter:

NOW KNOW YE, that reposing especial trust in your loyalty, integrity and ability, We do hereby confer upon you, the said The Honourable GEORGE ANTHONY WALKEM, the power of making inquiry into all and every of the matters aforesaid, together with the power of summoning before you any party or witnesses, and of requiring them to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing, or on solemn affirmation (if they be parties entitled to affirm in civil matters), and to produce such documents and things as you may deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters aforesaid, and We empower and direct you, the said Commissioner, to report the facts found by you in writing to Our Lieutenant-Governor of Our said Province of British Columbia, immediately or as soon as conveniently may be after you shall have concluded such inquiry, and that you do and perform all those matters and things in and about the taking of the said inquiry as by law in that behalf you are authorised to do.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of the Province to be hereunto affixed: WITNESS, the Honourable THOMAS R. McINNES, Lieutenant-Governor of Our said Province of British Columbia, in Our said City of Victoria, this thirteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and in the sixty-first year of Our Reign.

By Command.

JAMES BAKER,  
*Provincial Secretary.*

VICTORIA, B. C.: Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

